GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN, BRISBANE. BULLETIN NO. 1 OF 1945.

Confidential until released for publication as under:-

Morning Papers .. 26th January, 1945.
Evening Papers .. 26th January, 1945.

RETAIL PRICES - DECEMBER QUARTER, 1944.

All Items - "C" Series.

Index numbers for December quarter 1944 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 in the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 1,069, Toowoomba 1,084, Rockhampton 1,071, Townsville 1,116, Bundaberg 1,056 and Warwick 1,061.

The figures show the following percentage increases or decreases when compared with those for the periods shown.

City	December Quarter, 1944 - Percentage Increase or Decrease Compared With -		
	Year Ended June, 1939.	December Quarter, 1943.	September Quarter 1944.
Brisbane	23.9	0.1	-0.2
Toowoomba	27.4	0.1	0.0
Rockhampton	24.4	-0.2	-0.3
Townsville	22.4	0.3	-0.1
Bundaberg	25.6	0.3	-0.1
Warwick	29.1	0.4	-0.2

Food and groceries, clothing and footwear, and the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares, etc., have shown the following percentage changes during the last quarter and since 1938-39.

City	Food and Groceries		Clothing and Footwear		Miscellaneous Items	
	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Sept. Qr., 1944.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Sept. Qr., 1944.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Sept. Qr., 1944.
Brisbane ..	12.0	-0.5	72.5	0.1	19.2	-0.3
Toowoomba ..	23.2	0.2	69.4	0.0	18.7	-0.1
Rockhampton	11.5	-0.2	71.5	-0.5	20.9	-0.2
Townsville ..	9.8	0.0	73.1	-0.3	18.7	-0.2
Bundaberg ..	13.3	-0.1	71.5	-0.1	17.6	-0.5
Warwick ..	16.4	-0.1	71.3	-0.4	21.1	-0.2

d and Rent (4 and 5 roomed houses) - "B" Series.

Index numbers for December quarter, 1944 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 in the six te Capitals) were Brisbane 919, Toowoomba 945, Rockhampton 906, Townsville 975, daberg 884 and Warwick 887.

From September quarter 1944 to December quarter 1944 the "B" Series index emained stationary in Townsville, Bundaberg and Warwick, showed decreases of 0.3 per ent. in Brisbane and 0.1 per cent. in Rockhampton and rose 0.2 per cent. in Toowoomba.

The increase in Toowoomba was mainly due to a small rise in the price of milk; the decrease in Brisbane and Rockhampton was mainly caused by a seasonal drop in the price of eggs plus in Brisbane a slight reduction in meat.

Rents remained unaltered in all towns except Toowoomba where the index ose 0.1 per cent.

Compared with December quarter 1943 the "B" Series Index showed the following percentage increases, Brisbane 0.5, Toowoomba 1.2, Rockhampton 0.7, Townsville 1.4, Bundaberg 0.7, and Warwick 1.8.

The rent Index remained stationary in Townsville, decreased by 0.1 per cent. in Rockhampton and showed the following percentage increases in the other four towns; Brisbane 0.1, Toowoomba 0.1, Bundaberg 0.3 and Warwick 1.1.

Compared with the Index for 1938-39 the "B" Series Index increased by the following percentages, Brisbane 7.9, Toowoomba 15.1, Rockhampton 8.2, Townsville 6.4, Bundaberg 10.6 and Warwick 15.5.

Increases were recorded in all towns for Food and Groceries compared with 1938-39; the percentage changes are shown in the second table on the previous page.

Comparison of Costs in the Queensland Cities.

The following table shows the amounts necessary in December quarter, 1944 to purchase what would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

	All Items	Food and Groceries	Rent (4 and 5 Rooms)	Clothing and Footwear
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brisbane	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0
Toowoomba	1. 0. 3	1. 0.11	19.11	19. 8
Rockhampton	1. 0. 0	1. 0.10	17. 9	1. 0. 3
Townsville	1. 0.11	1. 1.11	1. 1. 1	1. 0. 4
Bundaberg	19. 9	1. 1. 4	15. 7	1. 0. 2
Warwick	19.10	1. 0. 7	17. 1	19. 9

Comparison of Commonwealth and State Basic Wages.

In the following statement comparisons are made between the prevailing basic wages in the various Capital Cities and States. The margins between the Brisbane (or Queensland) figure and the other figures in these columns show the advantage to the Queensland State Basic Wage earner.

State	METROPOLITAN				STATE AVERAGES b.			
	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Brisbane	Actual Basic Wage a.	Margin in Favour of Brisbane	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Queensland	State Basic Wage	Margin in Favour of Q'land.
		£ s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.
Queensland	1069	4.17. 0	4.17. 0	-	1073	4.17. 8	4.17. 8	-
N.S.W.	1142	5. 3. 7	4.19. 0	4. 7	1138	5. 3. 7	4.19. 0	4. 7
Victoria	1138	5. 3. 3	4.18. 0	5. 3	1134	5. 3. 3	4.17.10	5. 5
South Aust.	1098	4.19. 8	4.14. 0	5.v8	1093	4.19. 6	4.14. 0	5. 6
West. Aust.	1104	5. 0. 2	4.19.11	3	1112	5. 1. 3	5. 0. 6	9
Tasmania	1106	5. 0. 4	4.14. 0	6. 4	1089	4.19. 1	4.12. 0	7. 1

a. Current State Basic Wage.

b. Average for 5 principal cities in each State, weighted by population.

RETAIL PRICES INDEX.

Table No. 1.

THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

City	Year Ended Decr. 1928.	Year Ended June, 1939.	Year Ended Decr. 1944.	QUARTERS ENDED - Decr. 1943	March 1944	June 1944	Sept. 1944	Decr. 1944
Brisbane	917	863	1071	1068	1072	1072	1071	1069
Toowoomba	906	851	1085	1083	1087	1085	1084	1084
Rockhampton ..	903	861	1074	1073	1075	1076	1074	1071
Townsville	1023	912	1117	1113	1116	1119	1117	1116
Bundaberg	(b)	841	1057	1053	1056	1060	1057	1056
Weighted Averages - Five Cities (a) ..	915	864	1075	1072	1075	1076	1075	1073
Warwick	914	822	1061	1057	1059	1062	1063	1061

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.
(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No. 2.

FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

City	Year Ended Decr. 1928.	Year Ended June, 1939.	Year Ended Decr. 1944.	QUARTERS ENDED - Decr. 1943.	March 1944.	June 1944.	Sept. 1944.	Decr. 1944.
Brisbane	901	852	923	914	925	924	922	919
Toowoomba	833	821	945	934	945	946	943	945
Rockhampton ..	858	837	908	900	909	911	907	906
Townsville	1047	916	975	962	973	976	975	975
Bundaberg	(b)	799	886	878	887	889	884	884
Weighted Average - Five Cities (a)	892	851	926	916	927	927	925	923
Warwick	841	768	886	871	880	888	887	887

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.
(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No. 3.

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES - FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Brisbane.

Commodity & Unit of Quantity	Year Ended June, 1939.	MONTH OF Sept. 1944.	Decr. 1944.	Commodity & Unit of Quantity	Year Ended June, 1939.	MONTH OF Sept. 1944.	Decr. 1944.
	d.	d.	d.		d.	d.	d.
Bread .. 2 lb.	5.33	5.50	5.50	Oats - flaked .. 1 lb.	3.57	4.06	4.06
Flour .. 2 lb.	3.73	4.09	4.09	Milk .. .. 1 qt.	6.00	7.10	7.10
Tea .. 1 lb.	26.99	27.05	27.05	Beef - Sirloin .. Roast .. 1 lb.	8.73	11.90	12.00
Sugar .. 1 lb.	3.98	3.98	3.94	Beef - Steak Rump .. .. 1 lb.	11.34	16.90	17.00
Jam (Plum) $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	8.02	12.45	12.50	Beef - Steak Chuck .. 1 lb.	5.83	7.95	7.05
Raisins .. 1 lb.	10.57	12.55	13.03	Beef - Rolled Brisket .. 1 lb.	5.48	7.95	7.55
Potatoes .. 7 lb.	14.88	8.37	8.37	Mutton - leg .. 1 lb.	7.75	8.50	8.50
Onions ... 1 lb.	2.93	3.00	3.00	Mutton - chops Loin .. .. 1 lb.	7.78	8.40	9.00
Soap .. 1 lb.	6.20	7.03	6.96				
Butter .. 1 lb.	19.00	19.91	19.82				
Cheese .. 1 lb.	13.28	15.00	15.09				
Eggs .. 1 doz.	19.69	22.00	23.00				

GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN'S OFFICE,

BRISBANE. 25th January, 1945.